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## **Governor Perdue and NC Metro Mayors Discuss Topics Significant to Salisbury during Coalition's Winter Meeting**

*Fiber to the Home, Public Safety/Positive Youth Initiatives, and White Space Testing  
Among Hot Topics at NC Metro Mayors Conference in Wilmington*

Salisbury, NC\_February 26, 2010 – The NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition held its annual winter conference in Wilmington earlier this week. Governor Bev Perdue spoke to the group on Wednesday during the kick-off of the two-day session that allows mayors from across the state to gather in one location and discuss growth and current urban issues. Founded in 2001, the Coalition promotes the interchange of ideas and experiences among municipal officials. The mayors typically assemble twice a year with a winter meeting conducted to elect officers and develop a legislative agenda prior to commencement of the North Carolina General Assembly. A second Coalition conference follows the conclusion of the General Assembly session.

In addressing a group of approximately forty mayors and city managers, the Governor provided insight into the agenda for the upcoming General Assembly session and the legislative goal of restructuring government. Perdue reflected on many of the difficult decisions that she had often had to make while in office and shared some of the positive results that had ultimately followed. She also expressed her desire to partner with the mayors in the future and the importance of a strong relationship amid difficult times. During the Governor's question and answer series, Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz addressed Perdue regarding support for municipal efforts in providing broadband services for citizens. Perdue responded with her support for the continued development of city infrastructure through broadband service implementation. The Governor further acknowledged the importance of providing broadband services to citizens.

Mayor Kluttz later shared her appreciation for the Governor's support and offered, "Speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council, it is with sincere appreciation that we receive positive support from Governor Perdue regarding North Carolina municipal efforts dedicated to providing broadband services for citizens. Broadband networks play a critical role in promoting both technological innovation and economic vitality within a city. The provision of affordable fiber to the home (broadband) services assists in the acceleration of economic growth by attracting new businesses and creating new jobs. Broadband offers the speed that is essential in today's society and supplies an affordable and essential element in the creation of a thriving local economy."

Discussion during the Metro Mayors conference included an update from “Seamless Solutions to Urban Crime.” The state-wide summit, held in Salisbury during August 2009, offered a gathering of mayors, law enforcement, and judges from the largest cities across the state. During the “Seamless Solutions” event, attendees voiced concerns regarding criminal activity and broke into roundtable sessions to discuss ideas for gang activity reduction. Results culled from the “Seamless Solutions” work sessions were presented to Metro Mayors at the conference this week. Mayor Kluttz offers, “Public safety is a vast concern to every member of the Coalition. By working together to share strategies aimed at deterring youth violence and criminal activity, we create a vast network of knowledge that provides state-wide support against crime. Our children are our future leaders of tomorrow and we must take every necessary precaution to protect them from participation in gangs and future acts of violence. In sharing the many dedicated works underway across the state, our Mayors consistently recognize faith-based and community organizations as key partners in our efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency and deter gang-related activity. The provision of positive youth initiatives is paramount for municipalities. When we create affirmative opportunities for our youth to consistently succeed, we deter the potential for their involvement in criminal activity and are able to provide a safer community for all.”

Mayors received an additional presentation regarding municipal utilization of “White Space” and testing that is currently underway in New Hanover County. Opportunities for municipal use of white space allows the sending and receiving of information via the old analog signal that became available during the switch from analog to digital. In Wilmington, testing of capabilities for the powerful wave length includes the possible provision of free internet access in park locations and the monitoring of access to park bathrooms and the quality of the local water supply. Lt. Governor Walter Dalton also spoke to those in attendance and provided examples of white space opportunities that will enable government entities to harvest the analog signal for municipal use.

Mayor Kluttz, who had previously served as treasurer for the Metro Mayors, was elected to serve as vice-chair during the Coalition’s 2010 term. Durham Mayor Bill Bell will serve as chairman for the organization with Mayor Terry Bellamy of Asheville serving as treasurer. The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at [www.salisburync.gov](http://www.salisburync.gov). To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of Salisbury’s Facebook users group at [www.salisburync.gov/facebook](http://www.salisburync.gov/facebook) or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

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